From: Zachary Schneirov
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:46pm
Subject: Concerning the Settlement with Microsoft

To whom it may concern:
I believe that the U.S. government must not and cannot allow the
Microsoft monopoly to continue its current business practices without
some major punitive action. Microsoft sees any standard over which they
do not hold total control as a clear and present threat to their Windows
monopoly. Throughout the years they have repeatedly, systematically,
and unabashedly set out to undermine and ultimately destroy all
computing technologies that had the chance to interfere with Microsoft's
stranglehold on desktop computing. Often the company accomplishes this
through a policy of "embracing" a standard (in which they integrate it
into one of their products) and subsequently "extending" the standard,
at which point making the standard incompatible with competing
products. End-users are consequently forced to use Microsoft's
solution, as Microsoft has bundled software that makes use of this
standard into their Windows operating system.
We have seen this occur with the proprietary Microsoft Word document
format, numerous internet protocol applications including the Netscape
and Internet Explorer web browsers, and we are now seeing it with
digital video playback solutions--QuickTime and Windows Media Player.
When Microsoft began bundling new versions of Windows Media Player that
made use of new, proprietary, and patented media formats, web sites had
no choice but to begin offering most of their video content in Windows
Media Player format. It has become increasingly difficult to do any
type of desktop computing without running into Microsoft-controlled
formats and software.
If Microsoft continues with this trend (and there is no reason that they
will not) it will soon become literally impossible to use any emerging
technology that is not available on Windows; Microsoft will have finally
taken over the entire field of computing.
This must not be allowed to happen. A strong, crippling punishment is
the only solution.

Regards,
Zachary Schneirov